

REMARKS

This is a response to an Office Action mailed October 23, 2001 (Office Action). The Office Action has been reviewed, and in view of the foregoing amendments and following comments, reconsideration and allowance of all of the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Attached to this Response is Appendix A, which represents the marked-up version of claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24.

Status of the Claims

Claims 2, 9, 16, and 23 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer, by this response. Therefore, claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, 17-22, and 24-28 are pending.

Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 1-4, 8-11, 15-18 and 22-25 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants respectfully traverse. However, in an effort to advance prosecution, applicants respectfully submit that a proper terminal disclaimer will be executed, if necessary, upon the indication that the claims are otherwise allowable.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 13-16, 19-23 and 26-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,548,507 ("Martino"). Applicants respectfully disagree that Martino anticipates claims 1-3, 5-9, 13-16,

19-23 and 26-28 as originally presented, however, in an effort to advance prosecution, applicants have amended independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The independent claims are amended to recite, *inter alia*, the features of "individually *comparing each of the characters of the message to an entry for each of the candidate character sets in a character table bank.*" Martino does not disclose or suggest at least these features.

Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Martino, at best, discloses, comparing "words" in a document, not "each character of the message." See, table 1, col. 5, lines 5-60, col. 9 lines 5-40. Thus, the claimed character by character comparison is not suggested or disclosed. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Dependent claims 3, 5-7, 13-14, 19-21 and 26-28 all depend from one of claims 1, 8, 15 or 22, and, thus, contain the features recited therein. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least this reason, claims 3, 5-7, 13-14, 19-21 and 26-28 are also not anticipated by Martino. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Martino in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,873,111 ("Edberg"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, independent claims 1, 8, 15 and 22 each contain features that are not suggested or disclosed by Martino. Claims 3-4, 10-11, 17-

18 and 24-25 all depend from one of the independent claims, and, thus, contain the features recited therein. Edberg is relied upon to allegedly teach the "the benefit of using a collocation object and table" (Office Action, para. 7) and, thus, does not cure the deficiencies of Martino. For at least this reason, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 3-4, 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25 is improper for failing to suggest or disclose each feature of the claims and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

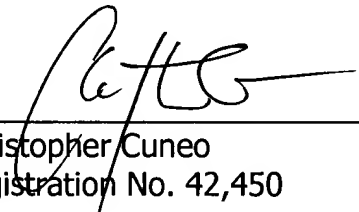
It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX – VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph immediately following the heading "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", at page 1, in the following manner:

This application claims priority from, and incorporates by reference, U.S. Provisional application serial number 60/114,574 filed December 31, 1998. The subject matter of this application is related to the subject matter of copending U.S. Patent application serial numbers [_____] 09/384,443, 09/384,442 and 09/384,088, entitled "System and Method For Evaluating Character Sets," "System and Method For Evaluating Character Sets Of A Message Containing A Plurality Of Character Sets," and "System and Method For Evaluating Character Sets To Generate A Search Index," respectively, each filed August 27, 1999, [the same day as this application] and each having the same inventors and being assigned or under obligation of assignment to the same assignee as the present application, and each incorporated by reference. The subject matter of this application is also related to the subject matter of copending U.S. Patent application serial numbers [_____] 09/384,542, 09/384,541, 09/384,089 and 09/384,538, entitled "System and Method For Outputting Character Sets In Best Available Fonts," "System and Method For Using Character Set Matching To Enhance Print Quality," "System and Method For Output Of Multipart Documents," and "System and Method For Highlighting Of

MultiFont Documents,” respectively, each being assigned or under obligation of assignment to the same assignee as this application, each filed August 27, 1999 [the same day as this application], and each also incorporated by reference.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2, 9, 16 and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Kindly amend claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. **(*AMENDED*)** A method of evaluating characters in a message, comprising the steps of:
 - a) accepting an input of the characters of the message;
 - b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to [a predetermined set of] an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message; and
 - c) selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.
2. [CANCELLED]
3. **(*AMENDED*)** The method of claim [2] 1, wherein the step of comparing each

character comprises the step of testing the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the universal code is Unicode.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of (d) computing a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the step of (c) selecting a best match comprises selecting the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of (e) applying a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.
8. **(AMENDED)** A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
an input interface to accept an input of the characters of the message;
and
a processor unit, connected to the input interface, the processor unit evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the

message to [a predetermined set of] an entry for each candidate character sets in a a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message, and selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

9. [CANCELLED]

10. **(AMENDED)** The system of claim [9] 8, wherein the processor unit tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

12. The system of claim 8, wherein the processor unit computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the processor unit selects the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the processor unit applies a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.

15. **(AMENDED)** A system for evaluating characters in a message, comprising:
input interface means to accept an input of the characters of the message; and

processor means, connected to the input interface means, the processor means evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to [a predetermined set of] an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message, and selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

16. [CANCELLED]

17. **(AMENDED)** The system of claim [16] 15, wherein the processor means tests the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein the processor means computes a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein the processor means selects the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the processor means applies a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.

22. **(AMENDED)** A storage medium for storing machine readable code, the machine readable code being executable to evaluate characters in an electronic message according to the steps of:

- a) accepting an input of the characters of the message;
- b) evaluating the message by individually comparing each of the characters of the message to [a predetermined set of] an entry for each candidate character sets in a character table bank to determine a match between the predetermined set of candidate character sets and the message; and
- c) selecting a best match between the message and the candidate character sets.

23. [CANCELLED]

24. **(AMENDED)** The medium of claim [23] 22, wherein the step of comparing each character comprises the step of testing the ability of each candidate character set to express that character by performing a logical mask between a universal code for that character and an indicator in the character table bank indicating whether each of the candidate character sets contains that character.

25. The storage medium of claim 24, wherein the universal code is Unicode.

26. The storage medium of claim 22, wherein the steps further comprise the step of (d) computing a total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

27. The storage medium of claim 26, wherein the step of (c) selecting a best match comprises selecting the best match based upon the total number of characters matched to each of the candidate character sets.

28. The storage medium of claim 27, further comprising the step of (e) applying a weighting factor to at least one of the total number of characters matched.